

III. MUNICIPAL POLICY IN PROVIDING SERVICES

The North Carolina General Statutes require a municipality when annexing an area to designate the manner in which it will extend and provide services to that area. Rockingham provides fire and police protection, refuse collection, street maintenance, water and sewerage systems for all areas within the present city limits. It does not provide recreational facilities or services. The City School Board as an independent agency provides the school system. Library facilities are provided by joint participation of the City and County. Other services such as street improvements, street lighting, street signs and other miscellaneous services are provided by general municipal policy.

The services which the City provides are indicated in two different categories. Services provided by Right indicate those community services which a land owner receives by virtue of land ownership within an area. Services provided by petition indicate services for which a land owner must petition the City to be considered for such service.

In determining the general ability of a city to economically annex an area, it is the services provided by Right of Land Ownership which must be considered as the major cost. Services by petition are general administrative problems and can be worked into the fiscal policies and budgets of the city.

The City's policy in regard to services are as follows:

City Services by Right

It is the policy of the City to provide police protection to all areas within the city limits by means of patrol car beats.

It is the policy of the City to provide fire protection to all buildings constructed within the city limits by providing adequate fire equipment and personnel.

It is the policy of the City to provide water and sewerage disposal systems to all buildings within the City through the operation of a Utilities Department which collects fees charged according to the amount of water used, and other connection charges.

It is the policy of the City to collect all refuse from properties within the city limits.

It is the policy of the City to maintain all streets within the city limits utilizing such funds as are provided through the Powell Bill, with exception of those on the State System maintained by the State Highway Commission.